
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

EDUCATION MINISTER HONOURS LOCAL TEACHER

PORT HARDY – San Josef elementary teacher Christina MacDonald joined Education Minister Shirley Bond in the legislature today for an Education Week ceremony to recognize recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

"Christina is a wonderful example of the high calibre of teachers in this province," said Bond. "She has worked tirelessly to provide students in her one-room school with the same experiences that students in a much larger school receive, while maintaining a sense of pride in their small school."

MacDonald was recognized for her countless volunteer hours organizing the Salmon Enhancement program, beach clean-ups, walks with marine biologist Jackie Hildering, after-school choirs, talent shows, fun fairs and science fairs. In her classroom she ensures that her teaching methods are tailored to each individual learning style and encourages every student to reach his or her full potential.

"We are very proud of Christina's national recognition," said Ann Hory, chair of the Vancouver Island North school board. "The level of excellence she brings to her students is exceptional and we are very fortunate to have her. Given the challenges of small and somewhat remote schools, we are particularly proud of the quality of instruction and level of student achievement that shines through."

MacDonald teaches in a one-room school house 52 km outside of Port Hardy via a one-way gravel road. She teaches 17 students in Kindergarten to Grade 7, two of whom are her own. MacDonald believes that self-esteem, and a sense of pride goes a long way in helping students learn, so she encourages positive thinking and school pride. To achieve this, she organizes fund raisers for new computers, playground equipment, swimming lessons and a major bi-annual field trip. This year's trip was to Camp Homewood on Quadra Island, where students took part in canoeing, hiking, marksmanship, outdoor living, and an obstacle course.

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Christina MacDonald is among 14 B.C. educators who received the 2006 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. They joined Education Minister Shirley Bond today to honour their achievement as part of Education Week 2007. During Education Week 2008, Premier Gordon Campbell will announce the first-ever recipients of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence.

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